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# GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

*Published Weekly by*

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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**HANDS ACROSS THE ADRIATIC HAVE HELD BREAD AND SCEPTERS**

This Croat woman lives in northern Yugoslavia, where efforts to control the Adriatic once lured ancient Romans, medieval Venetians, and modern Turks to establish their rule on the sea's east shores. In the largely agricultural Croat section of Yugoslavia, the women from mountain farms bring produce to town on market days, and return home loaded with clothing and other supplies bought with the proceeds from sales. This successful bargainer, photographed before the war, carries a coat, a dozen doughnut - shaped loaves of bread, and two homespun sacks filled with purchases. Her walking stick will help in the climb to her mountain home. Croatian mountain families have joined Yugoslavia's fight against Nazi forces in the latest struggle for the land and trade routes across and around the Adriatic (Bulletin No. 2).

© *Relang from Three Lions*

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# GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETIN

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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## New Britain: New Step on the Road to Tokyo

THE landings of American forces on New Britain at Arawe and Cape Gloucester gave the Allies new Pacific beachheads one step closer to Tokyo than the island battlefields of New Guinea and the Solomons. The Japanese base at Truk, in the Caroline Islands to the north, is only about 1,000 miles away from New Britain.

In the Bismarck Archipelago—that cluster of two hundred tropical islands neighboring New Guinea and the Solomons just south of the Equator—New Britain is the largest. Its smaller sister island, New Ireland to the northeast, adjoins New Britain to form a rough crescent that outlines the archipelago on the east.

The vast mountainous island of New Guinea lies only 50 miles south across Dampier Strait from New Britain's southwest tip.

### Whiteman Range Has Mountains More Than Mile High

In outline New Britain is irregularly curved to resemble the profile of a lumpy lima bean pod. The inner curve of the bean pod faces to the northwest. In length the island is about 370 miles, but its slim width varies between 20 and 56 miles. Estimates of the area hover around 13,000 square miles.

Population is densest in the north, around the magnificent mountain-walled bays of the Gazelle Peninsula. Rabaul (the capital), Kokopo, Pondo, Kupindal, and Nambung stand among the coconut plantations around the peninsula's margins. The island's total population is estimated at 81,000.

In spite of its narrowness, the island has rarely been crossed by any except native tribesmen. Before the war government patrols climbed across its mountainous width in several places, but otherwise the interior was left unexplored until war imposed the necessity of pushing inland. The coast has been well charted.

The Whiteman Range forms a backbone of mountains curving along the entire island's length. Generally lower in the east, in the western half the mountains of this range push a number of peaks more than a mile above sea level. Two are estimated to be more than 6,000 feet high.

Outstanding "personalities" among New Britain's mountain great are the remarkable family of peaks known as the Father, the North Son, and the South Son (Ulawun, Likuruanga, and Bamus in the native speech) tower above the north-central stretches of the island. The Mother, with sulphur springs bubbling at her feet, the North Daughter, and the South Daughter (Kombiu, Turuanguna, and Towanumbatir) form a clustered threesome of cones behind Rabaul. Some explorers award the Father the title of New Britain's highest mountain. It is an active volcano, its height estimated at about 7,500 feet.

### Volcanoes Build Islands Overnight

Volcanic action, which built New Britain and pushed the island above the sea, still threatens the tropical landscape. Earthquakes occasionally shake the villages, stir up surrounding waters, and send tidal waves crashing across the beaches.

In 1937 a series of volcanic eruptions buried the streets of Rabaul, the island's chief town, under three feet of pumice and ashes. To add to the misery of the populace a huge sea wave swept over a portion of the town, when the bed of the



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*Erdelyi*

**ADRIATIC FISHERMEN CAN SPREAD THEIR SAILS FOR FOOD, FLIGHT, OR FIGHT**

**Though the Italian shores of the Adriatic are relatively poor in good harbors, the east coast is frayed with numerous island-shielded coves and inlets which favor the use of small sailing craft. Piracy in the past has flourished. The seagoing coast-dwellers of modern Yugoslavia in peacetime used their boats for sardine-fishing, the bright colors of the sails surpassed only by the brilliant hues of the fishermen's shirts. Now, however, the fishing boats enable the Yugoslavs to harass the enemy or to evade Nazi patrols and communicate with the Allies (Bulletin No. 2).**

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.


## Old Adriatic Battlefronts See New Battles

THE Adriatic Sea is rapidly becoming a major war arena as the battle for Europe progresses. The extensive losses of Allied ships at Bari, on Italy's east coast, spotlighted the Adriatic Italian shores. Resistance of Yugoslav guerrillas to the Nazis has sent war's echoes back from the sea's eastern margins.

An arm of the Mediterranean reaching up into central Europe, the Adriatic has been fought around, on, and over for thousands of years. Such Adriatic ports as Venice, Trieste, Fiume, Split, Durazzo, Bari, and Brindisi (illustration, next page) were familiar names in commercial and political conflict long before modern war thundered over this sea.

Separating Italy on the west—part of which is now held by Allied forces—from Yugoslavia and Albania on the east, the Adriatic is about 150 miles across at its widest point. At its narrowest—the Strait of Otranto, exit gate to the Mediterranean between Italy and Albania—it is about 47 miles wide. The sea is nearly 500 miles long.

### Coastal Contrasts: Italy and Yugoslavia

No easy routes run from Adriatic ports into central Europe and the Balkan States. Along the irregular shores of Yugoslavia and Albania rises a formidable barrier of rugged coastal mountains indented with jagged fjord-like inlets.

There is, however, one historic route inland from the head of the Adriatic. Northeast of Trieste, where the mountain wall of the Alps is lowered and broken, comparatively easy passage is possible into the upper valley of the Sava River. From this valley nature has furrowed paths leading to the broad Danube valley, which in turn opens a corridor northwestward into the heart of Europe and southeastward into the turbulent Balkan areas.

Striking geographic differences between the east and west coasts of the Adriatic have greatly influenced the history of the countries that rim its shores. Piracy flourished on the east, along what are now the shores of Yugoslavia and Albania, because the rugged, inhospitable terrain—which offered few resources for normal livelihood—did provide excellent hideouts from which to operate unlawful activities. By contrast, the harborless but fertile region of Italy's rolling coastal plain, on the west, could support fairly large populations engaged in the peaceful pursuits of fishing and farming.

### Venice Held Adriatic Power

Generally lacking in sizable ports on the west, the Adriatic has for centuries seen turmoil caused by Italy's efforts to gain a foothold on the opposite harbor-rich shores. In 230 B.C., the Romans launched punitive expeditions against pirates who had long harried commercial traffic from the opposite Illyrian shores (the Dalmatian coast of modern Yugoslavia). Later Roman legions crossed the sea, driving the freebooters inland, and set up bases from which to spread their power throughout the Mediterranean.

With the decline of the Roman Empire, Dalmatian pirates once more became rampant in the Adriatic. They preyed on the shipping of the rich city-states of medieval Italy, which fought them back—and also fought one another—for control of Adriatic waters. At one time the rule of Venice extended along most of what is now the coast of Yugoslavia. As late as the 18th century, Venice exacted tribute



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harbor was upheaved. Large cargo ships careened crazily in shallow water. Vulcan Island, which had been built by volcanic action in February, 1878, in the midst of the harbor, was pushed farther up so that it "grew" more than 60 feet higher above the water overnight.

Before the war the rich volcanic soil of New Britain was being made productive in some 75,000 acres of plantations. Most of the cultivated area was planted in coconut palms, from which the nuts are gathered to make copra. A fraction of the acreage produced cocoa.

New Britain's chief villages stand beside harbors, like Rabaul, which overlooks spacious Simpson Harbor. German administrators of the island built Rabaul in 1910, laying out orderly straight streets and spacious lawns.

Talasea and Gasmata are among the larger settlements. Pondo and Linden Harbour are notable as centers for drying copra.

For New Britain this is the season of the northwest monsoon, when heavy rains pelt the warm soggy earth incessantly. Monsoon weather soaks the island from December until March. Trade winds from the southeast begin in May to rustle the coconut palms and disperse the rain clouds.

Variations in the heat are slight. The thermometer registers around 90 degrees during the day, with 97 degrees not uncommon, and around 80 degrees at night.

Note: New Britain is shown in a large-scale inset on the National Geographic Society's Map of the Pacific Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. A price list of maps may be obtained from the Society's headquarters in Washington, D. C.

For additional information, see "Treasure Islands of Australasia," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1942.* *(Issues marked by an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers at 10¢ each in groups of ten.)*

**Bulletin No. 1, January 10, 1944.**

*Dr. J. P. Thomson*

**COCONUT FRINGE ADORNS NEW BRITAIN'S TRIBESMEN FOR THEIR SIT-DOWN DANCES**

**For the elaborate tribal ceremonies which include chants and dances, the New Britain tribesman decorates himself with a natural fringe made from the fibers that hold the leaves of a young coconut palm tree. The fibers are silvery in color and glossy as silk. The basis of his party costume is a coating of shiny coconut oil. Added attractions are smears of red earth or berry juices (right) which somewhat resemble the war paint of American Indians. Some of the performers thump on small drums placed on the ground before their crossed legs. Each holds a beak-shaped decoration in his mouth. New Britain's dances are usually stag parties, as women are rarely allowed to participate and sometimes may not even watch.**

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## Peat Pinch-Hits for Cousin Coal

IN THESE cold winter days of fuel shortage problems, it may be some consolation to know that the United States has peat reserves sufficient to supply every family in the country with about 450 tons of the turfy fuel. This small change of the country's mineral wealth could be drawn on in case of a serious fuel famine. Because of its bulk, however—a ton of peat occupies twice as much space as a ton of coal and gives only half as much heat—its use except in regions where it is dug is not economical.

Peat is soft-boiled coal—vegetation that has gone partially through the process of hardening into a mineral. It has been packed down in bogs for centuries, but not long enough to be solidified into coal. The turf from peat bogs has long been burned in large quantities in countries lacking adequate coal supplies. The plants which form peat apparently grow only in cold or temperate climates.

### Peat Heats Much of Northern Europe

In Eire 60 per cent of the farms depend upon their peat bogs for fuel. "Black turf, black turf, 12 sods for a penny" has gone down in literature as the cry of the Irish peat peddler. But during coal shortages, when even cities were dependent on peat heat, prices have risen to a shilling for a piece of peat no bigger than a large building brick. Dublin rationed peat last winter in allotments of half a ton a month to each household.

Twenty per cent of the railway fuel normally used in Ireland consists of briquettes in which peat is used in combination with native coal, wood, and other ingredients.

Besides Eire and Northern Ireland, a score of countries—mostly in northern Europe—burn peat for fuel. The U.S.S.R. digs more than 25 million tons a year. In Hammerfest, Norway, Europe's most northern city, peat is the principal fuel. It is burned in specially built stoves. Icelanders also use peat, mainly in the interior of the island where the fuel can be dug locally, as transportation costs make the price of imported coal prohibitive.

Before the war Germany organized a company to stimulate peat production within the Reich's frontiers. In line with a program to loot the captured countries, in 1942 the German forces occupying the Ukraine drained large marsh areas of this Soviet Republic and recovered much peat.

### Sweden Turns Peat to Paraffin

Lithuania has been a leading peat producer along the Baltic Sea's south shores, producing as many as a hundred thousand tons annually. Estonia to the north normally produced more than 50,000 tons a year. About a tenth of Latvia's 5,000-square-mile area is peat bogs. In Poland, especially in the marshy east, peat deposits are numerous.

Sweden has reserves of five or six billion tons of peat, scattered through the nation in well-distributed bogs. At Sosdala, the country's chief peat-producing center, Sweden has a factory that makes part of the output of fuel into peat briquettes. It is capable of producing 70,000 tons of the brick-shaped blocks annually.

Swedish peat production has been stepped up to a million tons, four times as much as the prewar output. Swedish experiments in the distillation of peat have



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from vassals on the Adriatic's east shores.

During World War I, when the Austro-Hungarian Empire shared the Adriatic with Italy, Montenegro, and Albania, sea and air action flared at numerous points. Before the Allies managed to bottle up Otranto Strait, the Adriatic was a battlefield across which the Allies and Central Powers attacked one another's ports and fleets. Italian Caproni bombers were especially active in these pioneer air operations. Damage done to arsenals, shipyards, and warehouses at Austria's naval base of Kotor (Cattaro) provided a preview of World War II's bombings.

## Italy Obtained Islands

Disputes over Adriatic towns and territories continued long after the first World War. Italy and Yugoslavia (the postwar nation that replaced Austria-Hungary along the eastern Adriatic) jockeyed for position. Eventually Italy gained the big peninsula of Istria and certain islands in the northeast corner of the Adriatic, including the ports of Trieste and Fiume. To Italy also went the Yugoslavia mainland town of Zara and Lagosta Island farther south, as well as the island of Saseno, which had formerly been Albanian.

*Cav. D. Cappello*

**BRINDISI GIVES ITALY AN ADRIATIC PORTAL**

**This 62-foot mottled marble column was erected to mark the east end of the ancient Appian Way at Brindisi, which then as now was one of Italy's points of departure for the Adriatic crossing. Virgil disembarked here. Before the war the harbor dispatched both ships and seaplanes (background). The wind gauge (right) supplied weather data essential to fliers and mariners. The struggle for this doorway on the sea has given Brindisi a stormy history since its capture by Romans in 267 B.C. Saracens took the port in 836, Byzantines two centuries later. The Normans seized Brindisi when they initiated their Crusades.**

## Trans-Adriatic Air Line

Thereafter, Italy's Adriatic traffic boomed. Bari and Brindisi were the embarkation ports for voyages to the eastern Mediterranean and to Italian colonies in east Africa. Brindisi was the terminus for regular trans-Adriatic air service to southeastern Europe and Asia, with stops at Athens, Istanbul, and Rhodes.

In the opening chapters of today's conflict, Italian troops were flown and shipped across the Adriatic for the invasions of Albania and Greece.

Note: The Adriatic Sea is shown on the Society's Map of Europe and the Near East.

See also in the *National Geographic Magazine:* "Italy, from Roman Ruins to Radio," March, 1940*; "Kaleidoscopic Land of Europe's Youngest King," June, 1939*; "Europe's Newest Kingdom," February, 1931*; and "Jugoslavia—Ten Years After," September, 1930*.

**Bulletin No. 2,**
**January 10, 1944**

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## Tantalum Fights, Then Helps Repair the Damage

TANTALUM, a rare and magic metal, has been hiding in rocks in a few scattered places since the earth was built. War and the age of electronics have brought it into the open.

The existence of the element—one of the 92 jigsaw-puzzle pieces of which the universe is made—was demonstrated in 1803, but it was not seen in metallic form until a hundred years later. Because it seemed within reach but could not quite be grasped, it was named for Tantalus, the king in Greek mythology who could not quite reach the fruit dangled above his head.

Tantalum is so rare that imports of the ore are usually measured in pounds rather than in tons. So vital has it become in war industries that a special allocation order from the U. S. Government is necessary for the purchase of a bit of the metal weighing more than an ounce.

### Tantalum Helps Both Doctor and Patient

This steel-gray metal is valuable because it is extremely hard, has a high melting point, and only a few chemicals have any effect upon it.

Although as hard as cold-rolled steel, tantalum can be worked easily. Yet it does not melt until heated to 5,162 degrees Fahrenheit, more than 2,300 degrees above the melting point of iron. It is three times as heavy as iron. These unusual qualities make tantalum a boon in laboratories and as material for surgeons' and dentists' instruments (illustration, next page).

One of its most important new uses is in patching up war casualties. A thin plate of tantalum, since it is unaffected by body secretions, makes the best replacement for an injured part of the skull bone.

Tantalum wires so fine that they are almost invisible to the naked eye are now used to sew together broken nerves. Heavier wires and screws of the metal are used to fasten together shattered bones.

### Aids War Photography

Most valuable, and at the same time most mysterious, function of tantalum is as a "getter" in electronic tubes. This, in the slang of engineers and manufacturers, means that tantalum, when heated, is able to absorb—or "get"—stray gas molecules. These strays float around in even the best vacuums that man can produce, and are joined by gases given off by other metal parts inside the tube and by the inner wall of the tube itself. If not absorbed these miscellaneous gas molecules interfere with the efficient operation of a tube and finally make it useless. Thus tantalum makes tubes work better and live longer, a result especially valuable in radar.

Among the tubes for which such a "getter" improves the vacuum are those for radio receiving sets, broadcasting equipment, television, motion picture sound equipment, public address systems, repeater stations for telephone lines and transoceanic cables, "walkie-talkie" radio sets, and the radio communications of airplanes, tanks, ships, and police cars.

Tantalum contributes its magic touch also to improve war photography. Tantalum and other rare metals completely replace sand in the glass of which some special lenses are made. Such lenses have an extremely high index of refraction. With them it is possible for aerial cameras to take clear photographs from greater distances above the earth than with ordinary lenses.



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shown that it can produce fuel oil, gas, coke, tar, carbolic acid, paraffin, and resin.

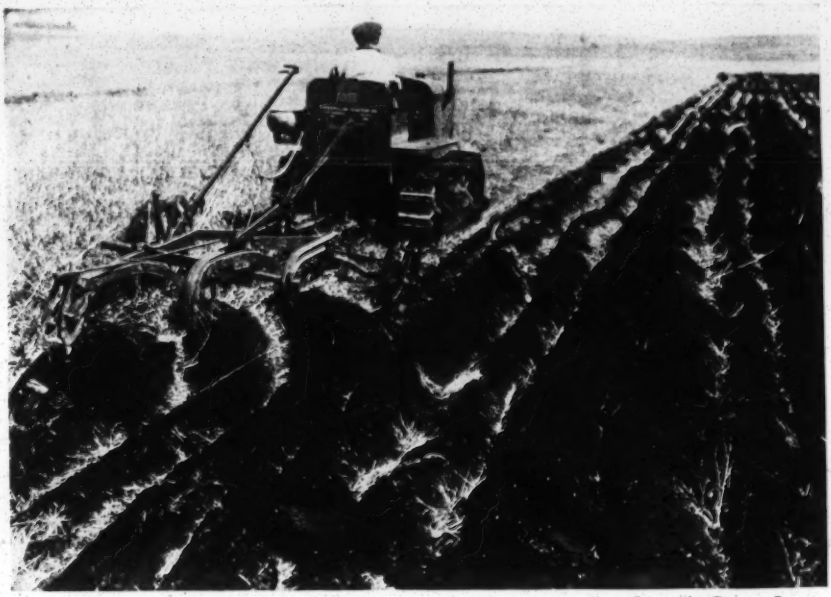
Peat is a mineral fuel geologically much younger than coal or its brown sister lignite. The process of making a mineral of peat's decomposed vegetation—mostly aquatic plants such as reeds, mosses, and sedges—has not progressed as far as in either coal or lignite.

The deeper the peat bog, the older, and therefore better, is the peat, since mineralization is further advanced. The average bog extends to a depth of about twenty feet.

Peat has a high water content, averaging about 90 per cent. Many methods for removing the water have been tried and discarded. The one now mainly used is the oldest and simplest—leaving the peat out in the air until as much as possible of the water evaporates.

If absolutely dry, peat would have a heat-producing value of about 9,000 British thermal units (the amount of heat needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit). Air-dried peat, however, seldom has less than 30 per cent water, and therefore its heat value is only about 5,964 BTU, or about half that of the average coal. Fourteen tons of peat must be excavated, and twelve tons of water removed from it, to produce the heat equivalent of one ton of coal.

**Bulletin No. 3, January 10, 1944.**



*Caterpillar Tractor Co.*

**THE PLOW STRIPES MINNESOTA'S PEAT FIELDS WITH ROWS OF FUTURE FUEL**

**This three-pronged, tractor-driven plow is turning up dark brown furrows of damp peat in three parallel lines across a field near Willmar, in the rich farm region of central Minnesota. Peat from the field can heat the farmer's house and cook his meals. First, however, the great water content—often as high as 90 per cent—must be evaporated by exposure to the air. Minnesota's extensive peat bogs, estimated to contain more than half the peat resources of the United States, have not been commercially exploited. In places the peat deposits make a layer five feet thick. If a way were found to extract more of the tremendous water content, so that the turf would take up less space in transportation, the State's soft-boiled coal might be of some use in smelting the iron ore which makes Minnesota's pie-shaped northeastern region—known as The Range—one of the world's leading iron-mining areas. Peat may be light tan, brown, or nearly black, depending on the plants from which it is formed and on the degree to which mineralization has taken place.**

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## Geo-Graphic Brevities

### PRIPET MARSHES A MID-EUROPE BOG

THE Pripet Marshes—back in the news as the Red Army drives into White Russia—form a great, boggy basin in the heart of continental Europe.

The marshes border the sluggish course of the Pripet (Pripyat) River as it flows eastward across the prewar boundary between Poland and the Soviet Union. They cover an area of twenty to thirty thousand square miles, roughly the size of West Virginia.

An intricate web of streams, canals, lakes, pools, swamps, and swamp forests marks the Pripet country. This marshy obstacle to land transportation repeatedly has been a decisive factor in war. In 1915 the Germans were halted at its western edge. Later the Russians launched from the Pripet Marshes one of the most successful and dramatic counteroffensives of World War I.

The Pripet region is sparsely settled. Pinsk, near its western edge, is the largest city of the vicinity. It had a population of more than 30,000 before German invasion in 1941. Because of the city, the marshes are sometimes called the Pinsk Marshes.

For the most part, the inhabitants of the marsh region wrest a meager living from their inhospitable land by primitive farming, where higher ground permits. Living in tiny villages along the streams, many supplement their food supply by fishing.

During the spring and fall rainy seasons, many Pripet families are isolated on islands within islands, which under high-water conditions can be reached only by locally made flat-bottom boats poled and paddled along the flooded rivers. For the unwary who step off familiar paths, there is danger of slow death in treacherous bogs and quagmires.

After the winter freeze comes, toward the end of November, sleds normally transport crops and other supplies over frozen roads and rivers. The marshes are crossed by several railways and an occasional highway.

All routes through the Pripet region have special hazards for the heavy mechanized forces of a hostile army. During the first World War, Russian guerrillas found the marshland a convenient hideout from which they could doggedly harass the enemy. Pripet peasant bands of guerrillas were called "marsh wolves" by the tormented forces of the Central Powers. After the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, the marshlands again became a guerrilla stronghold behind German lines.

Note: The Pripet (Pinsk) Marshes appear on the Society's Map of Europe and the Near East.

For additional information on Russia's part in the war, see "I Learn about the Russians," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1943; "'Magnetic City,' Core of Valiant Russia's Industrial Might," May, 1943; and "Mother Volga Defends Her Own," December, 1942.

* * * * * *

### INDIA-BURMA FRONT A SAVAGE THEATER OF WAR

AS THE dry season advances amid clouds of dust, increasing activity has been reported along the India-Burma front, giving the effect of a series of flaring brush fires.

Nature has created, in the region where India borders Burma, one of the

In special machinery tantalum alloys and plating furnish surfaces which stubbornly resist wear. The metal is valuable as a catalyst in the manufacture of butadiene, a gas which is an important ingredient of synthetic rubber.

The only known source of tantalum ores in the United States is the Black Hills of South Dakota, where the deposits are too small to work profitably. This country imports the metal in the form of tantalite (which looks like anthracite coal) from Australia, Brazil, and the Belgian Congo. Ore imports jumped from 56,000 pounds in 1939 to 490,000 pounds in 1940. As recently as the 1920's tantalum metal cost $115 per pound. Now it can be made for about $65 a pound.

### The Metal with a Twin Sister

Tantalum belongs to a family of valuable metals, its sister being columbium. The latter is virtually tantalum's twin in appearance and in some of its qualities. The two metals almost always occur together in their ores. The chief value of columbium is as an ingredient in stainless steel to improve its welding qualities. It is also added to iron to harden it for use in moving machinery parts that must operate at high temperatures.

**Bulletin No. 4, January 10, 1944.**

*U. S. Army Signal Corps, Official*

**TANTALUM DOES WAR DUTY ON THE DENTAL FRONT**

**Tantalum gives special aid to doctors and dentists on battlefronts by supplying their instruments with the quality of remaining unaffected—free of rust and pitting—in spite of constant contact with the chemicals of the human body. Such superlative modern instruments accompany U. S. armed forces into areas where there is no electricity to power a dentist's drill; to repair the major's molar, a bored GI must supply the power by pumping on a foot treadle like that of an old-fashioned sewing machine.**

world's most savage and fantastic war theaters. From the northern anchor of the line, on the border of Tibet, to the Bay of Bengal the air distance is about 600 miles. But actual mileage to be guarded or scouted by the Allies and their Burma supporters on one hand, and the Japs and their native henchmen on the other, may be double that figure. For this region is one of spectacular ups and downs: of mountains that tower up to 19,000 feet, of interlocking valleys, knife-sharp gorges, and winding streams whose courses have not been mapped.

Although modern guns and planes support the fighting men on this front, the outstanding feature of most of the warfare is its primitive character. Geography isolates the battlefields from one another. It dictates the positions that fighters must take in lonely mountain passes, in fertile green valleys and trackless jungle. It usually limits the size of opposing forces to relatively small groups, often breaks down the group to one man in a fox hole or a sniper hidden in a tree.

Note: The India-Burma frontier is shown on the Society's Map of Asia and Adjacent Areas.

See also, "Burma: Where India and China Meet," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1943; "Burma Road, Back Door to China," November, 1940*; and "Working Teak in the Burma Forests," August, 1930*; and the following GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Belated Burma: Pagodas, Parasols, and Peacocks Swept by War," October 25, 1943; "Arakan Front in Burma a Slice of 'Nature in the Raw'" (Geo-Graphic Brevity), April 19, 1943; and "Burma of the Peacocks, India's Eastern Flank," March 23, 1942.

**Bulletin No. 5, January 10, 1944.**

*J. F. Rock*

**JUNGLE BEASTS GIVE MAN ANOTHER BATTLE ON THE BURMA BATTLEFRONT**

**While Japanese and Allied forces are drawn up for combat along the India-Burma frontier, in the same hills man must wage his perpetual battle with the animals of the jungle. The flimsy bamboo villages of the hill tribes, isolated in jungle clearings, are subject to invasion by trampling wild elephant herds. A family asleep in a straw shelter beside a forest-clearing rice field may be attacked by a hungry tiger. This tiger, photographed in the hill village of Kyokta, was responsible for the death of three women and a child. All the men of the village worked together to build a stout tiger trap in which he was caught. In the trap he was stabbed to death with the long spears of the village warriors, then carried off hanging from crossed shoulder poles to be skinned. In this same menacing jungle region grows the chaulmoogra tree, from which is prepared a medicine for treating leprosy. Seeds from this neighborhood started the chaulmoogra plantation in Hawaii, and countless lepers have been benefited.**